

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 6-8 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to add additional features from the specification.

The Office Action

The Examiner is now rejecting independent claim 1 for obviousness over Bock, et al. (6,417,868) taken in view of newly cited Wong, et al. (U.S. 6,201,545) and Bock, et al. (6,271,820). In support of this rejection, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the teaching of Wong in the Bock '868 system "in order to reduce the cost of video graphic processing" (page 3 of the Office Action). The cost reduction suggestions of Wong at column 1, lines 63-65, are in connection with reducing the memory requirements for image processing, rather than in connection with reducing the number of column and/or row drivers, as provided by the present invention. It is not clear how a person of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine Wong with Bock '868 to the problem of reducing the number of column and/or row drivers.

Nonetheless, in an effort to conclude the protracted prosecution of this application, applicants have further amended independent claims 1 and 7 to (a) specify that the sub-frame pixel formed from sub-pixels from the superset have different centre locations and (b) limit the claims to drivers for electroluminescent displays. Adequate support for these amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed. For example, in Figures 5 and 6, it can be seen that the pixel centre varies in both column and row directions. Also, the specification as a whole indicates that the invention is applicable to electroluminescent displays.

With regard to the centred-pixel limitations, Bock '868 does not address varying the pixel centre locations by selecting different sub-pixels, but rather varies the luminosity of the sub-pixels by selecting sub-pixels with different areas. Since the pixels of Bock '868 have different areas, it is not possible to select a subset of pixels with centres located at spatial coordinates measured along the rows and columns that are different from the spatial coordinates of other subsets, as defined by amended claims 1 and 7. Bock '820 also does not address varying the pixel centres, but rather luminance controlled by a pixel dithering method. Borel, et al. teaches selecting sub-frame pixels with different centres but only the spatial coordinate along the column direction changes and not the coordinate along the row direction. Moreover, the intent of Borel is to establish a proper balance between

vertical and horizontal resolution, not to improve the resolution without increasing the number of row and/or column drivers commensurately, as an objective of the present invention.

Turning to the electroluminescent limitation introduced into the claims, all of the cited art relates to LCD or equivalent types of displays. Applicants respectfully submit that a person of skill in the art would not infer the application of this driver method from the teachings in LCD displays exemplified by the cited prior art, since the limited response time of the LCD material makes it very difficult to divide each frame into more than two sub-frames and still maintain an adequate frame rate. On the other hand, electroluminescent displays have a very fast response time, and frame division into sub-frames is not required to achieve grey scale differentiation as it is for other types of displays. Consequently, it is easy to introduce sub-frames for the purpose of the present invention, as defined by amended claims 1 and 7.

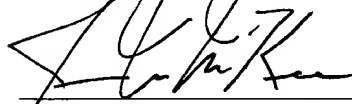
As such, claim 1 and claims 4 and 6, which depend therefrom, and claim 7 and claim 8, which depends therefrom, are not obvious in view of the cited art.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1, 4 and 6-8) are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

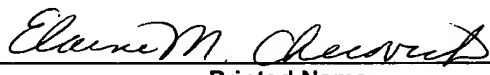
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